WARRIOR LEADER

Volume 5, Number 2 | 2001 ROTC Advanced Camp, Fort Lewis, Wash. | July 13, 2001

A fistful of firepower

M-249 SAW replaces the venerable M-60 machinegun at the Automatic Weapons Committee

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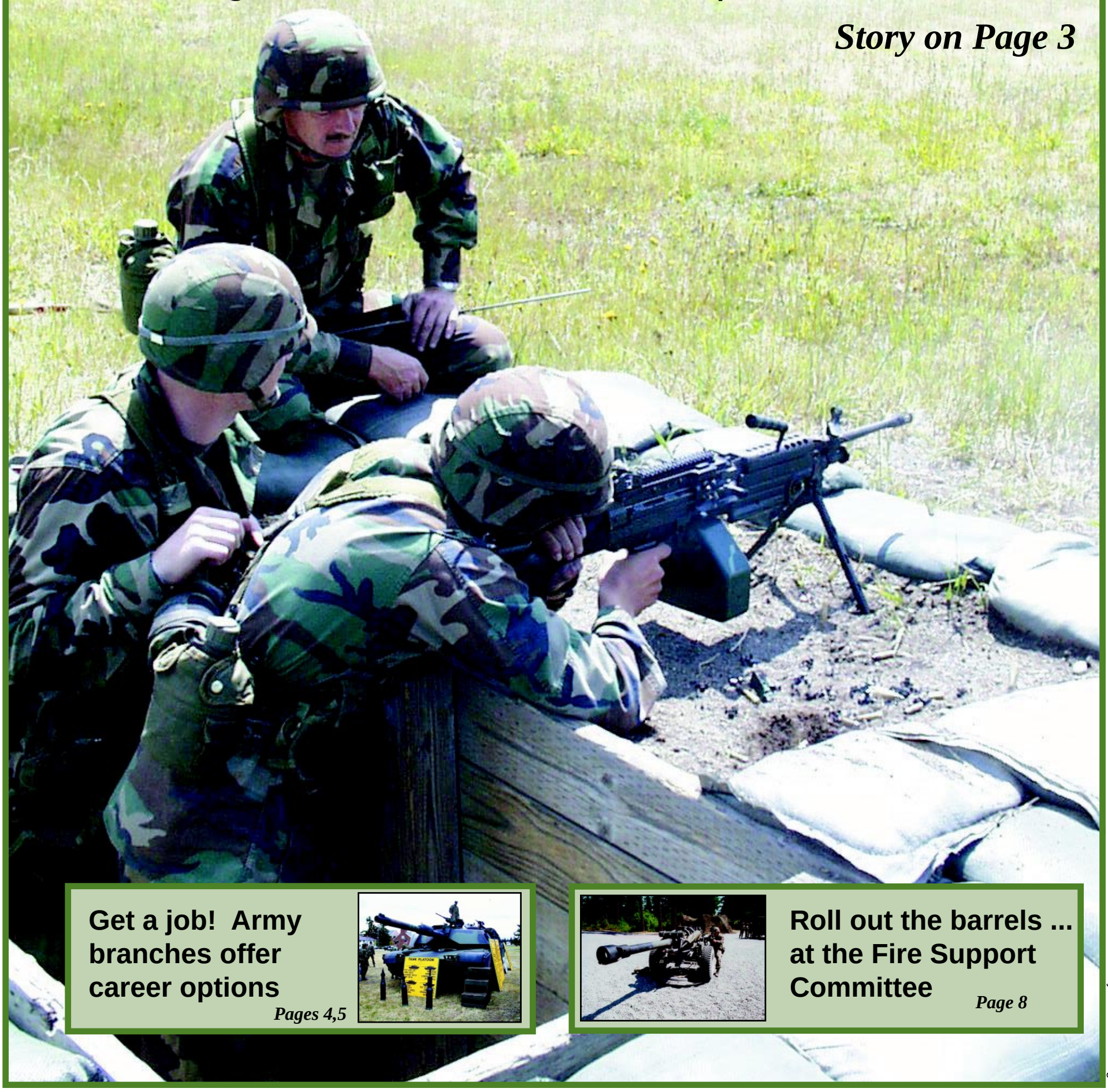

Photos by Bob Rosenburgh

Get a job! Army branches offer career options

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Roll out the barrels ... at the Fire Support Committee

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Three's a charm for the Claros cadets

By 2nd Lt. James Gordon

Anyone who spends enough time in 7th Regiment will swear they are seeing double, even triple, when the same cadet pops up in several places. They are almost correct - three identical cadets are training in the 7th Regiment. Their names are Donald, Joseph and Jack Claros; all three are members of the Washington Army National Guard in the Simultaneous Membership Program, enrolled at Washington State University.

The Claros brothers were born in El Salvador and moved with their family to America when they were three. Currently, they live in Spokane, Wash. Advanced Camp isn't the first military training all three have been in. The Claros brothers went to basic and advanced individual training together when they enlisted in the Washington National Guard. In fact, military service seems to be a family affair. Another Claros brother is headed for basic training in September.

Donald, Joseph and Jack Claros share a variety of talents and skills. For starters, they are bilingual, and all were trained to be Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 88M, Transportation Specialists. They all agree that having a brother around provides excellent moral support.

Although they have walked similar paths in the past, the triplets plan on taking different routes once they are commissioned. Donald plans on branching military intelligence (MI). Joseph is also considering MI, but would like to do a branch detail in the infantry. Jack would like to branch engineer. Of the three, Jack and Donald have stated a preference for serving in the reserve component, so their paths will likely diverge in the future.

Bob Rosenburgh

Donald, Jack and Joseph (left to right), the Claros brothers, of Washington State University, are excited to be training together in the 7th Regiment.

When asked why they always seemed to move as a group, Joseph said, "Well, we each worry about ourselves and pursue our own goals ... sometimes it just works out that we end up in the same place."

Whether together or apart, the Claros brothers serve as important reminders that it is a small world after all. In the military, they are just one more example that the probability of being stationed with someone you know, no matter where you go, is sometimes very high.

Freedom is worth quoting

By Chaplain (Lt.Col.) Thomas Joseph

In light of the recent Fourth of July celebration, our thoughts naturally turn toward freedom. Freedom, perhaps more than any other quality, lies deeply embedded in the American psyche.

Freedom is what our country was founded upon; it is what we constantly seek to preserve. One would be hard-pressed to find a people in the entire world more preoccupied with individual freedoms than Americans.

Today I offer to you some of my favorite sayings on the subject of freedom. I do so with two convictions: one, these writers and thinkers can say it much better than I and, two, freedom is perceived and understood in different and sometimes contradictory ways, as you will see. However, freedom is still worth quoting. Here are the quotes:

"I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than those attending too small a degree of it." (Thomas Jefferson)

"Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains." (Jean-Jacques Rousseau)

"I have on my table a violin string. It is free. I twist one end of it and it responds. It is free. But it is not free to do what a violin string is supposed to do — to produce music. So I take it, fix it in my violin, and tighten it until it is taut. Only then is it free to be a violin string." (Rabindranath Tagore)

"Freedom is a mirage on the desert. If you reach the place it seemed to be, you will find it dry, because being free means that you are no longer needed or loved by others. It would be a death, a dusty taste in the mouth. Those who are completely free of any obligations or loyalties or responsibilities are the loneliest people on earth." (Josephine Lowman)

"Absolute freedom is absolute nonsense." (D. Elton Trueblood)

"It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have three unspeakable precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them." (Mark Twain)

"It's often safer to be in chains than to be free." (Franz Kafka)

"Man is condemned to be free." (Jean-Paul Sartre)

"There can be no real freedom without the freedom to fail." (Eric Hoffer)

"Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently." (Rosa Luxemburg)

"O liberty! O Liberty! What crimes are committed in thy name!" (Jeanne-Marie Roland)

"Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!" (Patrick Henry)

"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves." (Abraham Lincoln)

Enjoy your freedom.

Camp regiments have Korean War heritage

By 2nd LT. Randy Maiuri

More than 50 years after the Korean War, the regimental affiliations at 2001 ROTC Advanced Camp reaffirm today's Army's ties to the past. The colorful banner that each regiment carries before it is much more than a flag - it carries the honor bought with blood on the battlefields of long ago. In several of the camp's 11 regiments, they carry the traditions of courage and sacrifice forged in the fires of Korea half a century ago.

Each cadet regiment is associated with an active duty Army regiment to promote esprit de corps, unit cohesion, camaraderie and give the cadets a sense of Army history.

In 1948, the Republic of Korea was born when South Korea established its separation from communist North Korea. At the same, time North Korea proclaimed itself to be the People's Republic of Korea. Immediately there were conflicts between the two Koreas. Although some border fights occurred in 1949, the main conflict broke out on June 25, 1950, when North Korean forces crossed the border into South Korea in a massive invasion. Through the United Nations (UN), the United States entered Korea to help stop the North Korean Army.

Between 1950 and 1953, United States soldiers fought and died for the independence of South Korea. With a death toll of 36,934 and a casualty count of 103,284, American fighting forces suffered greatly. While the losses for the United States seem high, there are casualty counts of possibly 4 million for the Koreans themselves. This number does not include one million dead from China or other UN fighting forces.

Although it has been 48 years since the end of the Korean War, American troops still remain there to ensure peace and independence for South Korea. It is also a part of history from the ranks of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). From 1950-1953, 18,000 ROTC commissionees served in the Korean War, not to mention the vast number of lieutenants who served their first tour of active duty in Korea. And those links are still with us today.

The first Advanced Camp regiment is affiliated with the 37th Field Artillery, "Striker" Regiment. In the Korean War, the 37th Field Artillery fought in numerous campaigns, including the UN defensive, UN offensive, CCF Intervention, First UN Counteroffensive, UN Summer-Fall Offensive, Second Korean Winter, Korean Summer-Fall 1952, Third Korean Winter, and Korean Summer 1953.

The 7th Armored Cavalry Regiment - "Garry Owen," affiliated with the 7th Regiment of Advanced Camp, also served in Korea. The regiment's motto, "Seventh first!" was confirmed in the battle for Korea. No other regiment won more presidential unit citations. The 7th Cavalry was never halted, crushing the enemy from the frozen Chosin Reservoir to the precipice of Pork Chop Hill.

Another active duty unit that affiliates itself with ROTC is the 8th Field Artillery Regiment - "Automatic." In July 1950, the 8th Artillery Regiment arrived in Korea with the 25th Infantry Division to help secure the Pusan perimeter. They proved formidable as they repulsed repeated attacks by the North Koreans near Taedu, at the Naktong Bulge and near the town of Masan. The colors of the 8th were carried high in every major campaign of the Korean War.

In addition the 9th Infantry Regiment - "Manchu," and the 23rd Infantry Regiment - "Tomahawks," were both prevalent in the major battles of the Korean War.

The heraldic flags and the affiliations they represent are a guide for today's cadets as they learn how those who came before acquitted themselves in combat. Through Regimental Affiliation, they can find a standard to meet in their own future careers.

WARRIOR LEADER

Volume 5, Number 2 - 2001 ROTC Advanced Camp
Fort Lewis, Wash. July 13, 2001
ADVANCED CAMP COMMANDER
Col. Daniel S. Challis

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Public Affairs Officer - Lt. Col. Margie Griffith
Deputy Public Affairs Officer - Capt. Woody Stone
Editor - Bob Rosenburgh
Staff - 2nd Lt. James Gordon, 2nd Lt. Randy Maiuri, 2nd Lt. Nathan Mayo

SAW adds new training dimensions at Auto Weapons

Story and photos by Bob Rosenburgh

It's light, lethal and loved by the soldiers who use it. It's the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon, but its friends just call it SAW. And now, for the first time in more than 40 years, ROTC cadets are firing something other than the venerable M-60 Machinegun during their live-fire automatic weapons training. Like their combat counterparts in the regular Army, they will be hammering targets with the SAW from now on.

Lt. Col. David Reid, from Texas Tech University, is in charge of the Automatic Weapons Committee for the second year in a row. He said the switch from one gun to the other offers many opportunities to improve training overall.

"It's worked out good," he explained. "We went this year from using the '60 for all training to using the M-249 SAW for the live-fire portion and the disassembly/assembly portion." That adds more dimension to the training, said Reid. "What, in essence, we have now is when the cadets come out here they get to see four weapons systems employed in the opening demonstration." A firepower exhibit using the M-60, SAW, M2 .50 caliber and Mark-19 Grenade Machine Gun is at the opening of Automatic Weapons training. "Then they get to train with two weapons systems, whereas in the past they only trained with one." He added that the SAW is a weapon every cadet will see when they enter the force as 2nd Lts., while the M-60 is being replaced Army-wide by the M-240 Light Machinegun.

'It's also helped out by eliminating the stoppage and malfunction problems we had with the M-60 because it is so darn old." The SAW, said Reid, is a newer weapon and has a simpler and more reliable design to boot. "As a result, training on the firing line has been going along at a more consistent clip than in past years."

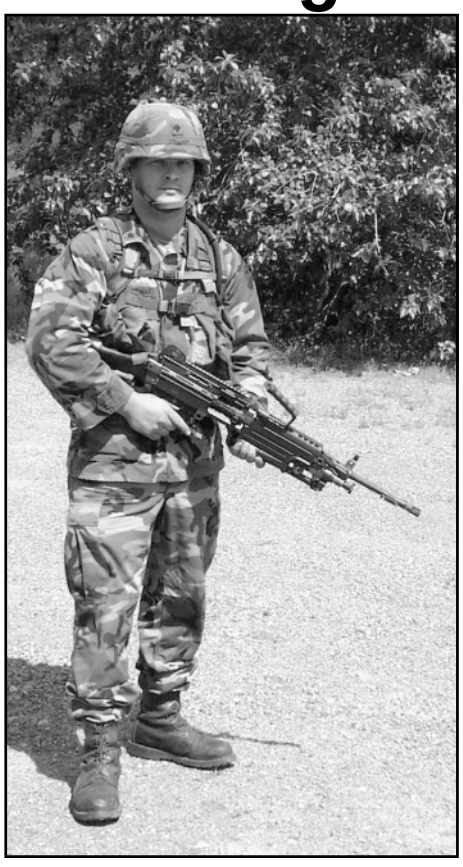
It may be some time, however, before the newer M-240 is seen at Advanced Camp, because it is still being fielded in go-to-war active duty forces.

"The '240 is a sweet weapon and I wish we had that out here," he said, "but that's not going to happen for quite a while." He also had kind words for the SAW, saying it is reliable, has a high rate of fire and light recoil. "It's a fine weapon to fire."

Despite a switch in weapons, however, the Automatic Weapons Committee still teaches the same firepower curriculum of live-fire, disassembly and assembly, live-fire demonstration, tactical employment of automatic weapons, preparing a range card and the Mad Dog assault course.

"We're still using the M-60 at the last three of those stations, so that's where they get a chance to check it out." The committee uses 40 SAWs and 25 M-60s for their training.

For their part, both trainers and cadets found the switch to the SAW to be a positive development.



Spc. Gordon Stewart, from the 513th Transportation Battalion at Fort Lewis, is among the active-duty cadre who support SAW training.

Staff Sgt. Donald A. Maxwell, of the 95th Division (IT) in Little Rock, Ark., said he train a lot of basic trainees with the M-60 Machinegun, but the 2001 ROTC Advanced Camp was the first time he'd trained with the SAW. While he preferred the larger 7.62 mm ammunition of the M-60, the SAW offered a higher rate of fire and the training was almost identical. "And the SAW is less complex," he added, "because you don't have as many moving parts and it's easier to assemble and disassemble." Maxwell said far fewer stoppages occurred with the SAW.

Cadet Christopher Hunter, University of Louisville, fires the SAW as Cadet Matthew Seaver of New Mexico Military Institute serves as assistant gunner.

Army Reserve soldiers of the 95th Division (IT) in Little Rock, Ark., demonstrate proper SAW firing positions and procedures to 3rd Regiment cadets.

Lt. Col. David S. Long, Professor of Military Science at University of Portland and commander of the 3rd Regiment, said his cadets are in a high state of morale at this point of camp.

"They like this part," he said. "They really like the weapons, they like the hand grenades and the only tough part is that they just came off Land Nav and they're a bit raw right now." But his 391 cadets are still fired up, said Long, and some of the platoons are so loud on the "hoo-ahs" that the rest are trying to out-do them. "It's a really motivated bunch."

"This is the first time I've ever fired live ammunition with that weapon, said Cadet Steve Fox, Marshal University. Fox already has experience with the M-60 and is familiar with other weapons. But he liked the SAW. "It's a lot of fun, first of all," he said with a grin. "I fired blanks with it in the past, but there is nothing like putting live ammunition downrange." The recoil is lighter than the M-60, he noted, and the rate of fire is better.

Spc. Gordon Stewart, from the 513th Transportation Battalion at Fort Lewis, is one of the support troops keeping the range going for Advanced Camp. He, too, had a lot to say about the SAW, noting that it is a 5.56 millimeter, selective-fire, gas-operated weapon.

"This thing can shoot magazine-fed," he explained, "or belt-fed. And the magazine is the same one used in the M-16." The belt usually comes in a disposable or re-loadable 200-round plastic drum and the two feed types are interchangeable without altering the weapon. It has a folding bipod for stable firing or handy carrying and weighs 18.5 lbs empty or 21.9 lbs with a full box of belted ammunition. And its vaunted rate of fire is 700 rpm, as compared to the M-60s 550 rpm.

The M-249 was adopted in 1982 and is fielded with one in every infantry fire team, giving six times the firepower over the two M-16s they replaced in each platoon. In selected units, the SAW replaces M-60 Machineguns, although most will be replaced by the M-240 Light Machinegun.

BRANCH ORIENTATION

Camp completion leads to branch selection

By Bob Rosenburgh

Following Advanced Camp, ROTC cadets must prepare themselves for the type of duty they will perform in their careers as Army officers. Once they return to their schools, those that completed Camp and graduate college before Oct. 1 will assemble and submit accessions packets for consideration by Department of the Army.

Several items must be included in that packet. It must contain the results of their Advanced Camp performance, a DA-style photograph in Battle Dress Uniform (accessions photo), college transcripts, their professor of military science's recommendation and the individual cadet's desires - in the form of bullet comments - for their preferred branch of assignment.

By late October, the first of two boards will meet. The DA-level board looks at all facets of the cadets' files, including ROTC and academic performance as well as personal considerations like student employment and extracurricular activities.

All cadet files are organized into an order-of-merit list and, using Army personnel projections for the coming year, the first board decides who gets active duty and who will be assigned to the Reserve component.

The second board then decides the branch to which newly-commissioned second lieutenants will be assigned.

All cadets must rank, in order of preference, their top six branch choices. For males, one of their top three choices must be in combat arms. Women must pick at least one of their top six in aviation, field artillery or air defense artillery.

Looking at the entire cadet file, branches will choose those they wish and, by early December, cadets will know if they will be going onto active duty and what branch they will have. In January, cadets chosen for active duty request things such as officer basic course dates, additional training requests like airborne, air assault or Ranger school and where they would like to be stationed for their first permanent duty assignment.

Armor is a war-winner

Bob Rosenburgh

By Bob Rosenburgh

"This is the M1A1 Main Battle Tank," shouted Lt. Col. Ernie Audino through the sheets of driving rain pouring down on him and his giant, steel platform.

"Hoo-ah!" responded more than 150 grinning cadets, wrapped in soggy ponchos with high spirits.

"It is the most lethal combat vehicle to ever grace the battlefield," Audino continued, slapping the big 120 mm gun tube beside him for emphasis. The cheering cadets responded enthusiastically;

"Hoo-ah!"

"It is fifteen hundred horse and 70 tons of rolling steel and sex appeal!" Again, the eager crowd raised their voices with the warrior's cry;

"Hoo-ah!"

"There are few things I find more satisfying than the crack of this 120 millimeter smoothbore cannon," Audino continued. "It'll launch an armor-piercing finstabilized discarding sabot carrying a long-rod penetrator made out of depleted uranium downrange at a mile a second ... and that ain't bad!"

"Hoo-ah, hoo-ah, HOOOO-ah!" roared the cadets.

"Unless you're on the receiving end," Audino added, "and then that's bad!"

The cheering erupted into an uncontrolled roar of approval, so Audino, who commands the 1st Battalion, 33rd Armor at Fort Lewis, Wash., nodded approvingly until the accolades receded.

"Now," he continued, "since I've got 44 of these babies, and I decide to put some steel on YOU, you got a problem on your hands. I can do more damage by accident than all my brothers on post can do on purpose. And if you are ever lucky enough to mount up as a leader in Armor or the Armor Cavalry, you will not regret it. It will change your life."

Mesmerized, the cadet barely noticed as the downpour steadily increased.

"You will operate across a tremendously expanded battlespace, at a rapidly accelerated pace of operations. You will command multiple weapons systems, night and day, locked and loaded, offensive and defensive, against moving targets, stationary targets and, damn, I'm getting excited just thinking about it."

A chuckle wandered around in the audience as they took it all in, imagining themselves in this fabled warrior elite, with seemingly all the combat power in the world at their fingertips.

"There ain't nothing like blasting across country at 40 miles an hour. When you see those movers come up, and it's pitch black out there by the way, and they're a mile and a half away. You grab that override, slew the gun, track the target ... FIRE! Men of WAR!"

"Warriors!" the cadets echoed'

"And there is a time," Audino said, dropping his voice, " when our country has had enough, they send in the tanks. There was a time in this country when every red-blooded American boy wanted to mount up like Jeb Stuart. And that spirit is alive and well today in the Armor Cavalry and it is alive and well in me. I'm proud of this noble profession of arms and, if I had my life to do again, there are three things I'd do exactly the same. I'd marry the same woman ... "

"Hoo-ah!"

" ... I'd find myself another outstanding Command Sergeant Major and I'd pick crossed sabers to wear on my collar. Men of War!"

Signal Corps

By 2nd Lt. Nathan Mayo

"By 2010, information will be a weapon. If you have information superiority, you lock the enemy out. Speed of command is the process ... destruction is the product." - LTG Douglas Buchholz, former Chief of Signal and J-6, 1997 Signal symposium

Communication is the key to victory in almost areas of military and civilian life. Without clear communication, even the best-laid plans will fall to pieces. Thank goodness we have the Signal Corp to gives us a clear line to talk over.

Working with the newest and most technologically advanced communication equipment in the world, the Signal Corp is responsible providing the backbone of army operations. Signal officers get to see all of the army. They are often assigned to infantry, armor, and most other combat arms branches.

As a signal officer, you will have the other branches depending on your ability to effectively communicate with your high-tech equipment, as well as with your own soldiers. Signal officers are made into well-rounded soldiers with the ability to combine human skills with machinery, allowing maximum power on the field of battle.

The Signal Corps essentially began as a branch of service on July 2nd, 1860, with the appointment of Assistant Surgeon Albert J. Myer. In May of 1861 the first signal school was opened at Fort Monroe, Virginia. The signaling system developed by Myers was put to use in the Civil War with success.

New Signal Corp Lt.'s are given a tremendous amount of responsibility. They may have a platoon of as many of 50 soldier. The platoon leader may also have to sign for and handle over $15 million worth of equipment. While this may sound like a daunting task, signal IOBC prepares officers to excel..

U.S. Army

A remote, mobile communications and sensing station in operation.

Adjutant General

By 2nd Lt. Randy Mauiri

In its own words, the Adjutant General Corps is a "world-class organization committed to providing quality personnel and administrative support to America's Armed Forces in peace, stability operations, and support operations in war." In everybody else's words, they are the ones that make sure things get done behind the scenes.

Have you ever thought of who gets your mail to you out in the field? The Adjutant General Corps delivers it. How do you get your orders on time and who keeps up with your records? Once again, it's the Adjutant General Corps.

Throughout the Army's history the level of personnel management and administration the AG Corps has accomplished is awesome. At the end of World War II, the AG Corps discharged more than 500,000 soldiers per month. A total of six million were separated from Army service.

The skills the AG Corps gives to its officers are invaluable to the Army.

AG officers are expertly trained in processing paperwork as well as a wide variety of computer applications. In the civilian world this means big bucks as an administrator. When AG officers leave the Army, they have excellent job opportunities in the civilian sector. Experience in their branch teaches them to deal with people and have exceptional human resource management skills.

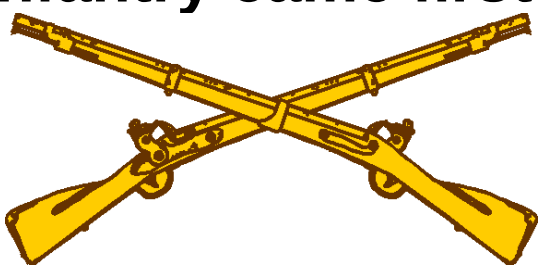
But many people still believe the AG Corps is strictly clerical.

While they have done their fair share of pencil pushing, however, they have also been known to push around the enemy. One of history's greatest battles, "The Battle of the Bulge," was fought largely by support troops. Caught off gurd at first, they had been surrounded by a surprise German thrust into allied lines. Putting aside their typewriters and picking up rifles, AG officers and their troops held the line against the best the Nazis could throw at them, proving forever that every soldier is a rifleman, no matter what his MOS might be.

It was, in fact, the Army's first Adjutant General who set the standard. On June 16, 1775, Horatio Gates was appointed Adjutant General to George Washington. He was responsible for organizing the state militias into the Continental Army. It was Gates, the AG, who led the Continental Army to victory at Saratoga. His victory there is considered by many to be the turning point of the American Revolution.

The AG branch provides all the Army with services that range from personnel administration and finance to mail services, casualty operations, officer and enlisted assignments and promotions and much more.

Infantry came first



By 2nd Lt. Nathan Mayo

Before any other American Army branch came into existence, there was the infantry. The infantry was the first branch, formed by the Continental Congress and led by Gen. George Washington, and it was the one that won the American Revolution. Without the infantry, simple logic suggests there probably wouldn't be a United States.

The great historic importance and heritage of the infantry is only surpassed by the adventurous and exciting career opportunities it offers its soldiers. Infantry soldiers get a taste of everything the Army has to offer in the field of combat. They can get their hands on the M-4 Carbine, the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW), a variety of nti-tank and anti-personnel rockets and mines, numerous wheeled vehicles and armored vehicles like the M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

Infantry platoon leaders have at least 30 to 40 soldiers under their command, and they control and direct an enormous amount of firepower. Mechanized platoon leaders can expect to have four Bradley's assigned to them, all armed with TOW missiles and 35-mm automatic cannons, as well as 30 highly-trained infantry soldiers. While this is a lot of responsibility, it builds leadership skills at a much quicker pace than any other branch.

Infantry officers get some of the best training the Army has to offer. Excellent training is the standard, not the exception. Every single infantry officer has the opportunity to go to Ranger School, Airborne School, and Air Assault School.

The incredible leadership skills developed in the infantry can also help officers who choose to separate from the Army. Corporations seek out and recruit infantry officers for high-level management jobs. If the officer decides to make the Army his career, promotions among infantry officers are traditionally higher than other branches and the Army's highest-ranking generals are mostly from the infantry.

JAG is also courting new officers

By 2nd Lt. Randy Mauiri

Every segment of American society relies on skilled attorneys for legal advice and assistance on a variety of complex issues, and the Army is no different. Since the Army began it recognized its own need for barristers.

On July 29, 1775, the second Continental Congress selected Col. William Tudor of Boston to be the first Judge Advocate General of the Army. Tudor was a 25-year old Harvard Graduate and a pupil of John Adams. Ever since then, the Army has relied on lawyers. Col. John Laurance, the second Judge Advocate General, prosecuted several well-known military figures including Maj. Gen. Benedict Arnold. From 1775 through 1862, the staff of the judge advocate was very small. But in 1862, legislation authorized a corps of judge advocates for the first time.

Since the Revolutionary War, JAG officers have played a part in every military conflict involving the United States Army. There have been, and will continue to be, JAG officers present wherever the Army goes. JAG officers do much more than prosecute cases. On a daily basis they help soldiers, from the newest private to sergeants major and officers of all ranks. They provide legal counseling in both military and non-military venues. They offer legal advice to the leaders of the Army and protect the interest of the Army as a whole.

There are a number of opportunities to serve your country within the Judge Advocate General Corps. JAG officers can serve full time as active-duty Army officers at Army legal offices found from Frankfort, Ky. to Frankfurt, Germany, and all around the world. An officer can also serve in the reserves while maintaining civilian employment. The Judge Advocate General's Corps is not just another law firm - it is part of our nation's history.

Taking Care of Soldiers

By 2nd LT. Randy Maiuri

The Army Nurse Corps has five major leadership goals. First, to maintain the core nursing competencies. Their second goal is make decisions in a collaborative format. Input from the field is important. This means daily responsibilities and duties have an effect on command decisions. Their third goal is to value each other as individuals and as a group. The fourth and crucial goal for leadership is mentoring. The final goal is communication. In the world of nursing, and especially in the Army Nurse Corps, communication is paramount.

The Army Nurse Corps is as old as the Army itself. On July 27, 1775, the Second Continental Congress authorized medical support for a Continental Army of 20,000 men, and submitted a plan to Gen. George Washington for creating a hospital. Under this directive, for every ten patients there would be one nurse. Their service in the Civil War was noted, too. On Aug. 3, 1861, Congress authorized an increased salary for Army nurses to $12 per month, plus one ration. The Nurse Corps became a permanent corps within the United States Army on Feb. 2, 1901.

Their mission today is to provide nursing leadership and quality nursing care, both in peacetime and during contingency operation, within a professional military system and in support of the mission of the Army Medical Department.

The human qualities that make this unique branch such a valuable part of the Army are summed up in the "Prayer of an Army Nurse" -

Hear my prayer in silence before Thee as I ask for courage each day.

Grant that I may be worthy of the sacred pledge of my profession

And the lives of those entrusted to my care.

Help me to offer hope and cheer in the hearts of men and my country,

For their faith inspires me to give the world and nursing my best.

Instill in me the understanding and compassion of those who led the way,

For I am thankful to You for giving me this life to live.

ITT teaches tactical tricks of the trade

By 2nd Lt. James Gordon

As tomorrow's U.S. Army officers, today's cadets may someday be called upon to successfully maneuver their units on the battlefield. They will lead a team, but the foundation of unit tactical operations is developed at the level of the individual soldier. This makes Individual Tactical Training (ITT) an important part of every soldier's effort to accomplish and survive the mission.

ITT is a six-hour block of instruction at camp. Cadets are shown a motivating demonstration illustrating the effectiveness and importance of ITT during combat operations. They then rotate among several instruction stations to learn proper camouflage, assembly area and individual movement techniques (IMT). Their final practice of IMT is on a miniature assault course where instructors walk them through the proper procedures. Then, the training culminates in the 400-meter Audie Murphy Assault Course.

The assault course uses a mixture of obstacles to test cadets' IMT speed and skill. These obstacles include rope bridges, walls, trenches, barbed wire and several long sections of high and low crawling. At the end, cadets must correctly assault a bunker with dummy grenades and blank M-16 rounds. Throughout the course, cadre members use blank machine gun fire, pyrotechnics and smoke grenades to simulate the noise and confusion that can occur on the battlefield. At the end, an after-action review is conducted to show cadets where they can improve their IMT skills. They may look dirty and tired afterward, but each cadet knows this training could mean the difference between life and death in combat.

Capt. Thomas Dye, of Alcorn State University, said ITT was one of the first tactical training sites for an important reason. "It's absolutely essential ... all the realism we throw in serves to reinforce in their mind that this is real and their soldiers may need to know it one day. Everything that they learn here they keep and use when they go down to Squad STX. So we're building all through camp."

A mixture of reserve and active duty soldiers support the site. Among them are the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry, with an active-duty reconnaissance platoon. These support soldiers provide instruction and training cadets need to succeed later in their camp missions.

Two field ambulances and a total of four medical personnel are also on the site to ensure that any injuries can be addressed quickly. Dye stressed that, although injuries do occur, they are mostly minor and cadets are back to training very quickly.

In the end, the ITT portion of camp serves as yet another opportunity for cadets to learn the fundamentals of soldiering, bond with members of their squad and rise to the challenge of being the next generation of warrior leaders.

2nd Lt. James Gordon

Cadet Todd Vieau, of Clemson University, crawls under a barbwire obstacle, using his rifle a protective fender against snagging the sharp strands.

Al Zdarsky

Cadets in the 2nd Regiment learn that getting through concertina wire takes patience and skill.

Advanced Camp blood drive not in vein

By Bob Rosenburgh

Every summer, the population of Fort Lewis swells by the thousands as ROTC cadets come from around the nation for the major field training requirement in their Military Science curriculum and, every summer, they provide a unique opportunity to help save lives. So many cadets, plus the thousands of additional cadre who train them, are a ready source of blood donations.

"We are working with the Military Blood Donor Center at the Madigan Army Medical Center," said 2nd Lt. Jacqueline M. Cline, the blood drive project officer for the 2001 ROTC Advanced Camp. "We're going to have a blood drive on Day 30 of each regiment's training cycle."

The drive will run from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each time, in Buildings 3D34 and 3D10. She added that donations are accepted from all cadre, cadets and other military personnel. "They can be active duty, National Guard, Army Reserve, family members, retirees or DOD civilian employees." Donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh no less than 110 pounds.

Cline explained that the blood collected would be used in military treatment facilities.

"They need 110,000 units each year, about 60,000 units of red blood cells and 50,000 units of other blood components for transfer and use each year." Less than five percent of those eligible donate blood, so flyers will be put in barracks to build awareness and every regiment will be briefed on its 28th day at camp.

Typical donors will first be interviewed to ensure eligibility, then they will fill out a donor form.

"During the interview," Cline explained, "they are asked about things like travel, certain places they may have gone, when they gave blood before or whether they have a cold or flu, if they are pregnant or were pregnant six weeks ago or if they had a recent surgery or illness." Another question concerns amateur tattoos or body piercing. If these were done within the last year, the donor cannot give blood. "And in the last year there has been concern about certain areas where Mad Cow, Malaria and other outbreaks have occurred."

The donor's answers will determine their eligibility to give blood and to become a bone marrow donor.

"If you want to give blood," said Cline, "but just had tattoo, you can still sign up to become a bone marrow donor." The volunteer's name goes on a worldwide registry and if a need for his or her tissue type arises, he or she would be contacted for another screening prior to that donation. "You'll sign a consent form and then a blood sample will be taken to determine compatibility. If it's a match, the transplant will be conducted following a counseling and thorough examination."

Bob Rosenburgh

2nd Lt. Jacqueline M. Cline is the the blood drive project officer for the 2001 ROTC Advanced Camp.

Blood donors will have one pint drawn and then are asked to drink extra fluid to help return their blood volume to normal.

"There will be juice and cookies," Cline explained."

The goal this year is for 100 units (pints) per regiment, she added, noting that donations last year failed to meet the targeted goals. "We really want to do a lot better than that."

Fragging the day away

2nd Lt. James Gordon

Cadet Justin Yellico, of Canisus College, removes a pull pin as he prepares to throw a dummy grenade at the distance and accuracy station..

By 2nd Lt. James Gordon

BOOM! An explosion roars then sizzling shards of shrapnel blast a half-inch-thick steel target in half, sending it sailing through the air. Where could such a scene be happening? Bosnia? Iraq? Advanced Camp?

That's right, right here at the 2001 ROTC Advanced Camp, future warrior leaders test their aim and their nerve with high explosives during hand grenade instruction. During five hours of instruction, cadets learn how to recognize and employ various types of hand grenades. And they throw a live grenade on the high explosive range.

One of the training highlights is the hand grenade assault course. It consists of a mix of obstacles, interspersed with grenade-throwing stations. Cadets must run, crawl, and climb their way to several targets, then employ grenades from the standing, kneeling, and prone positions. The course-time for each squad is recorded, then they are compared and the quickest squad is presented the hand grenade streamer.

Of course, employing weapons with such high destructive power requires constant supervision and safety procedures. The majority of instruction at the hand grenade site is focused on using these weapons safely. Cadets learn proper throwing techniques and range procedure. They also learn how to properly transport grenades and what to do if one is dropped. All of this is done to increase confidence and keep the training safe.

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Magana is an instructor from the 3rd Battalion, 413th Reception Station in Los Angeles, Calif. Magana instructs at the Distance and Accuracy station.

"The cadets are awesome," he said. "They come out here and you can tell they're ready to train. They are definitely motivated."

2nd Lt. Robert Gibson, from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, is the officer in charge (OIC) of the site. He agreed that training is going well, adding, "This training is highly applicable to future leaders ... because it is a basic combat skill ... everyone in the Army does it and so it is an important step in training a lieutenant."

The hand grenade range teaches an essential part of soldier combat skills and the cadre and cadets strive to conduct training in a safe and professional manner. It helps pave the way toward the technical and tactical competence that is required of every leader.

Pitching coach teaches frag-tossing, too

By 2nd Lt. James Gordon

When you need to throw something as dangerous as a fragmentation grenade, you want to toss it as far and as straight as you possibly can. This year, cadets are polishing their technique under the guidance of a baseball coach who really knows how to burn in a fastball, whether it explodes or not.

Those cadets who have passed through the Distance and Accuracy station on the hand grenade training site may recognize him as Sgt. 1st Class Larry Magana. A resident of Los Angeles, Calif., Magana is working here as part of his two-week annual training with the 3rd Battalion, 413th Reception Station.

As a former drill sergeant, Magana had a lot of practice instructing young soldiers, but his teaching skill doesn't stop there. Magana is also a baseball coach at Whittier High School. He is quick to point out the parallels between teaching baseball and using grenades. In both, he said, a willing and motivated student is necessary.

Even when coaching baseball and performing his duties as a reservist, Magana still finds time for his three sons. His oldest son even serves as an assistant coach on their baseball team. The next oldest boy was a player on the same team this year and Magana led the Whittier High baseball team to their league playoffs this year. Magana has successfully turned baseball into a family affair.

Both cadets and Magana's fellow cadre appreciate the skills he has brought to the hand grenade-training regimen. He's hit a home run with his talents at training cadets at the Distance and Accuracy station, but a lot of future foes will strike out when they face his grenade pitchers on some future battlefield.

2nd Lt. James Gordon

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Magana is looking forward to getting home, but has thoroughly enjoyed his tenure as an instructor at Advanced Camp.

Cannon crews coach cadets

By 2nd Lt. James Gordon

Artillery is called "King of Battle" for a reason. Historically, most battle casualties are a result of fire that has been called in from afar. As future Army officers, therefore, cadets must be familiar with the call for fire to ensure the requisite skills are at their disposal. That leads to training at the Fire Support Committee.

During four and a half hours of instruction, cadets learn how to employ and adjust indirect fire for maximum lethality on the battlefield. The classes also serve as an introduction to the field artillery for those who are interested in that Army branch.

When cadets first arrive at the site, they are treated to a thunderous demonstration that literally shakes them awake. Three M-198 Howitzers slam a series of rounds into the target area. Excited cadets watch the shells hurl clouds of dirt and target chunks several meters into the air. The guns are located less than a hundred feet from the cadets, which adds to the excitement. A detailed briefing follows, about the artillery mission, procedures and, of course, safety.

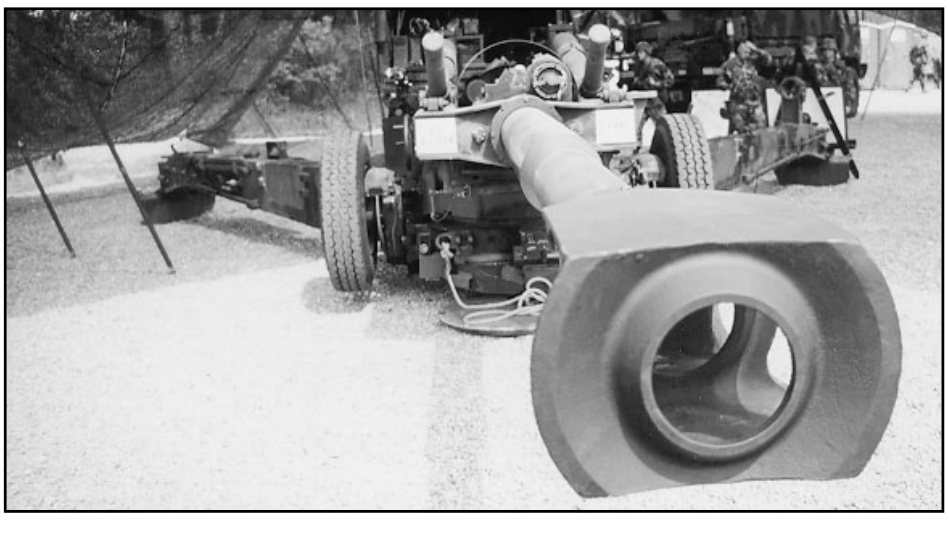
2nd Lt. James Gordon

A 155 mm shell rips through the air as its fired by cannoneers from 1st Battalion, 37th Artillery. The Fort Lewis-based unit is hekping train cadets at the 2001 ROTC Advanced Camp.

2nd Lt. James Gordon

Cadet Andre Liem, of Cornell University, sights in the M-198 on a target.

But demonstrations and briefings aren't the only training at Fire Support. Cadets are organized into groups that visit different stations to learn the fundamentals of planning artillery support, crew drills on the guns and adjusting fire. The 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery from Fort Lewis, Wash., supports the training by providing instructors and equipment. Generally, the soldiers assigned to the detail enjoy it very much. Capt. Joe Roller, an instructor at the site, said it is excellent that cadets get the opportunity to observe and adjust live fire. He added that it is a unique opportunity because some active duty soldiers don't get the chance to train at this level.



2nd Lt. James Gordon

Although adjusting fire is technical, cadets accomplish the mission with motivation and guidance from instructors. As cadets go through the training, they learn to respect the lethality of the "King of Battle". Some may be excited enough by the action to decide that a career in the field artillery is for them.

M-198 Howitzer specifications:

Length: .....In tow: 40 feet, 6 inches
Firing: 36 feet, 2 inches

Width in tow: .....9 feet, 2 inches

Height in tow: .....9 feet, 6 inches

Weight: .....16,000 pounds

Bore diameter: .....155 mm

Maximum effective range-rocket-assisted projectile: .....18.64 miles

Rate of Fire-Maximum: .....4 rpm
Sustained: .....2 rpm

Crew: .....10 man crew

Mastering maps makes cadets confident

By 2nd Lt. Nathan Mayo

"You have to know how to get from point A to point B, how to find your objective, and what's the best way to get to your objective," explained Master Sgt. Alan Perez. "Land navigation plays an important role, on the ground and in the air."

Perez, the Land Navigation Committee noncommissioned officer in charge, helps ensure cadets know proper land navigation techniques, as well as seeing that nobody gets lost in the woods.

Land Navigation is one of few events at Advanced Camp that focuses on individual skills more than teamwork. During the land navigation test, talking is strictly prohibited. Cadets cannot rely on their buddies to bail them out. The only team each can rely on is his or her individual self, compass and map.

In order to prepare cadets for the challenge of the land navigation course, a day of refresher classes and practice is given. Cadets gathered around a mammoth-sized terrain model and were familiarized with the features of the course before they headed out. They had to know the proper methods of navigating over a variety of terrain, as well as how to read military maps and use a compass without ending up in downtown Seattle. Classes were also given on pace count, dead reconnoitering, terrain association and attack points.

After the classes were completed, cadets were given a practice test. This test consisted of five points to find out on the course. Cadets were required to find three of the points within two hours to pass. That night the cadets went on a night practice test. They needed to find two out of three points to pass.

Night land navigation truly tests the skills of the cadets. With the reduced visibility comes increased difficulty. The possibility of getting lost is always present. Land Navigation committee members are always ready for the worst. "The biggest overall [concern] is the safety of the cadets," said Perez.

Cadets finished the night practice test just past midnight, and racked out in their shelter halves for the night. Plenty of rest was needed for the record test the following day.

The following afternoon cadets went out on the record land navigation test. They were given eight points to find. They had to find at least five points within three hours to pass. Perez said that the course shouldn't be difficult to cadets. "This is too easy," Perez said, pointing out some of the aids provided. "There are road signs, and they are given classes to refresh their memory."

Cadets were given a brief amount of time to plot their terrain reference points before their record time started. After marking the starting time on their card, they were allowed to go onto the course. Those who finished late lost points from their total score, even if they had the right terrain point. For the night course cadets had to find three out of five points within two and a half hours.

When it was all over, there were a lot of sore feet, tired cadets, and plenty of "I swear that point wasn't there" stories. From the scores the cadets posted however, you would think they were seasoned professionals.